

CLAIMS

1. Device for facilitating loading/unloading of goods from a goods wagon (1) comprising at least one load-carrying unit (5), two wagon portions (10) and means for locking together the load-carrying unit (5) and the wagon portions (10), which wagon portions are provided with means for transport on rail, said load-carrying unit (5) being separable from the wagon portions (10) in at least one end, and is movable to facilitate loading/unloading of the load-carrying unit (5), **characterized** in that the load-carrying unit (5) is provided with at least one slide foot that slides over a slide belt during lateral displacement of at least one end of the load-carrying unit, where the means for raising the load-carrying unit (5) are provided for inactivating the locking means.

2. Device according to claim 1, **characterized** in that the slide foot (40) is provided with upwardly bent ends.

3. Device according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the slide belt (35) is housed in compartments (37) in side walls of the load-carrying unit (5).

4. Device according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the slide belt (35) is covered with, or manufactured from, low friction material.

5. Device according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the slide belt is covered with low friction plastic.

6. Device according to claim 5, **characterized** in that the low friction plastic covering the drive belt is of PTFE type (e.g. Teflon®).

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7. Device according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the load-carrying unit (5) is manufactured from composite plastics.

8. Device according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that the load-carrying unit (5) is provided with ramps (20) that facilitate loading/ unloading of goods.

9. Device according to any of the proceeding claims, **characterized** in that the load-carrying unit (5) is raised and lowered by means (25) connecting the load-carrying unit (5) with the slide foot (40).

10. Device according to any of the preceding claims, **characterized** in that one slide foot (40) with corresponding slide belt (35) is provided at each end of the load carrying unit (5).

11. Device according to any of the preceding claims **characterized** in that ramp(s) are hingedly received in at least one end of the load-carrying unit (5).

12. Method for facilitating loading/unloading of goods from a goods wagon (1) comprising at least one load-carrying unit (5), two wagon portions (10) and means for locking said load-carrying unit (5) and said wagon portions (10), which wagon portions are provided with means for transport on rail, said load-carrying unit (5) being separable from the wagon portions (10) on at least one end, and is movable to facilitate loading/unloading of the load-carrying unit (5), **characterized** in that the ends of the load-carrying unit (5) are moved laterally, thereby inactivating the locking means, by means of at least one

slide foot that slides over an corresponding slide belt during lateral displacement of at least one end of the load-carrying unit.

5 13. Method according to claim 12, **characterized**
in that the ends of the load-carrying unit (5) are slid to
impose a pivoting motion of the load-carrying unit (5)
around a central, virtual pivot axis situated between the
wagon portions (10).

10 14. Method according to claim 12, **characterized**
in that the ends of the load-carrying unit (5) are moved
laterally from the wagon portions (10), imposing a lateral
movement of the load unit with respect to a virtual line
15 connecting the wagon portions (10)